

PEOPLE & THINGS: By ATTICUS

STRUCK down with a "summer" cold, I decided that it was time to learn something from the Cold Research Unit at Salisbury, where I have been labouring on my affliction since 1946, but their Public Relations Officer in London could only tell me that no preventive measures have yet been devised.

He informed me that colds are always caught from other people. They are caused by a virus and transmitted by bacteria. Draughts, wet socks, bad weather and changes of temperature do not cause colds. Women are considerably more susceptible than men. Eskimos do not catch colds except on visits to "civilisation," when they are felled like oxen, and chimpanzees are the only other animals to suffer.

None of these facts was of help in getting rid of my cold, but it did occur to me that in distant years the Cold Research Unit may have come to a lot of sensible conclusions on how to avoid a cold and how to get rid of one as quickly as possible. Colds being a miserable and expensive national affliction, I think it would be very humane and desirable for the Ministry of Health to issue an interim statement giving us their best advice up to date, even though, in terms of official scientific knowledge, their findings may strike the experts as pretty small beer compared with isolating the virus.

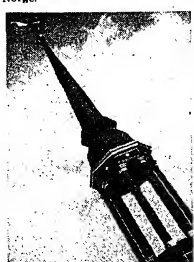
Polar Epics

WHEN the Leif Viking, of the Scandinavian Airlines, last week completed the first commercial flight over the North Pole, it followed for a time the route of the first manned polar flight, that of a film of the explorer's life has been made in Oslo and will be shown to the Explorers' Club in New York this month and later in London by the Royal Geographical Society.

The film includes scenes from Scott's journey to the Pole, which I believe have never been shown publicly before, the North-West Passage by the Gjoa, Amundsen's departure, the search of Noble, the North-East Passage by the Maud, and Amundsen's South Pole journey, and the return. And it will include the recorded voice of Fridtjof Nansen.

All the scenes are made from the original film taken during these journeys. The only scene that was made possible by the chance discovery in the Fram, which is exhibited at Bygdoen, is a

In the attempts by the flying boats M24 and M25 and by the airship Norge.



London's New Landmark (A Pigeon's Perspective)

THE City of London is one of the last refuges of the metropolitan picturesque. For those who, like myself, set great store by its silt huts and secret gardens, any enhancement of its individuality is of keen interest.

I was especially glad, therefore, to come upon the new Dutch church in Austin Friars, which has been designed by Mr. Arthur Bailey, and will be opened on July 11 by Princess Irene of the Netherlands. The building occupies the site of the earlier Dutch church which was built in the reign of Edward VI and was destroyed in 1940.

Dr. van Apeldoorn (the fifth Dutch rector in the annals of the church) tells me that next summer the church will be embellished with bulbs presented by Dutch growers; and, summer and winter alike, the city skyline will be embellished with a new ornament—the elegant and notably *Netherlandish fleche*, with its golden cockerel conspicuous against the sky.

The Next C.I.G.S.

IT is a pity that there is to be a pause in General Sir Gerald Templer's military career, for one would like to see his Malayan triumphs quickly repeated in other trouble spots, but there are two excellent reasons why he will not, in the meantime, take over the command in Germany. First of all he is suffering from amoebic dysentery, and his stay in Zurich on his way to London is to consult a Swiss specialist here starting on the long and stubborn

fight entailed in a cure of this ravaging tropical disease. Templer is a man who gives everything to the task on hand, and undoubtedly he is in need of a long rest.

Secondly, General Sir Richard Gale is such an outstanding success in Germany that there is no reason for him to be relieved, even by an officer of General Templer's quality.

But, after this pause in his career, it is with confidence that I predict General Templer's appointment as C.I.G.S. when Field-Marshal Sir John Harding completes his term of office in the autumn of next year.

Stakhanovite Cheers

AFTER pressing their noses against the window-panes of Western culture, the Soviet Ballet Company is finding the eagerly proletarian audiences in East Berlin rather a trial.

Organised claque of East German "factory delegations," who think they are doing the right thing by using the rhythmic clapping employed at Communist meetings to force Ulanova and others to arrange repeated encores, are trying the patience of these exquisite and sophisticated artists. As they come before the curtain for the 7th time the dancers appear puzzled and rather irritated.

A Soviet official has explained to the company that when the audience applauds items of relatively less artistic merit this is also an expression of gratitude by the German people to the Soviet Union for past kindnesses.

The quality of some of the dancing, which was superb on the opening nights, has not unnaturally slipped in the company's second week.

Light Reading

WHEN the Russian Army entered Berlin, one of their first targets was the Gestapo headquarters, whose files were hurried off to Moscow.

But there was one room in the basement they did not discover. It has just been excavated by workmen clearing the site and a fascinating document unearthed there has come into my hands. It is the Gestapo invasion plan for England, entitled "G. B. Secret" and, after perusing the section on "The British Isles," shall examine with a fresh eye one or two innocent members of my club.

Steady On!

The Gestapo were going to have a busy time, for they were warned to arrest any member of a public school on the "founds" of their job is to procure the English gentleman, who a never

considered philosophical problems, who hardly knows any foreign cultures and who considers Germany as the personification of everything evil, but who regards British power as indestructible. The whole public-school system is designed to produce men of the strongest will-power, who possess scrupulous energy for whom mental problems are a waste of time but who understand human beings and how to rule them ruthlessly."

They were then to liquidate the heads of the Boy Scout Movement, which is a camouflaged instrument of power for English culture propaganda, and an excellent source of information for the British Secret Service."

Rogues Gallery

IN addition to the files of Scotland Yard, which were immediately to be seized, the Gestapo were advised that if they found any photographs of Charlie Chaplin, figures in British public life on the black lists "for arrest and disposal," they might find it helpful to arrange for their removal to the National Gallery, "which contains four thousand portraits of well-known British personalities, including a number of Jews."

Beating the Clock

A FEAT which has defied generations of Oxford undergraduates is the circling of the colonnade of Christ Church quadrangle while Tom strikes twelve. This week, when the university is to be invaded by 24 American athletes, the American and Pennsylvania universities a new attempt is to be arranged.

The Americans will field Mr. Andrew Badagian, and Mr. J. Albert Sepahn of Cornell while Oxford is happily placed in possession in Mr. Derek Johnson, a former American and Pennsylvanian who on the day of Mr. Bannister's mile broke the thirty-two-year-old Oxford quarter-mile record of 48.6 seconds. It was in fact the previous quarter-mile holder, Bevil Rudd of South Africa, the 1920 Olympic champion, who came closest to success in Tom quad.

Lord Birkenhead once challenged Rudd to a post-prandial race in dinner jackets in which Rudd had no chance of coming to the third High-Chancellor's one. He tried to say the noble Earl found it unnecessary to proceed at more than a snail's pace.

The quad, the largest in Oxford measures 80 yards by 82 yards. Thus 324 yards and three right angle bends have to be negotiated in the 26.6 seconds taken by the unburying clock.